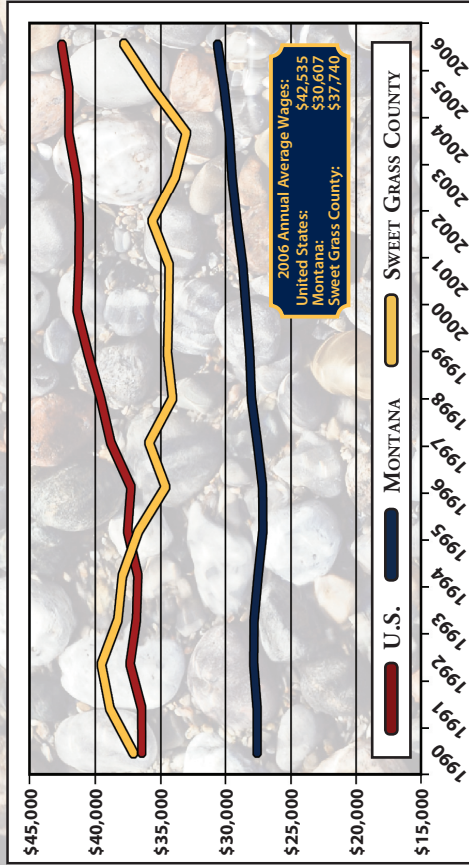


## Annual Average Labor Force - Sweet Grass County

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2006	2,835	2,792	43	1.5%
2005	2,731	2,678	53	1.9%
2004	2,628	2,573	55	2.1%
2003	2,259	2,205	54	2.4%
2002	2,132	2,066	66	3.1%
2001	2,051	1,990	61	3.0%
2000	1,991	1,928	63	3.2%

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

## Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2006 (In 2006 Dollars)



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

## Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2005 (In 2006 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

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Photo courtesy of [MontanaPictures.net](http://MontanaPictures.net)

# Demographic & Economic Information for Sweet Grass County



**RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU**

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Census and Economic Information Center - Montana Department of Commerce  
 P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2240 - Fax: (406) 841-2231  
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## SWEET GRASS COUNTY

Sweet Grass County is Montana's thirty-ninth most populous county, with an estimated 3,760 residents as of July 1st, 2006. Big Timber, the county seat, is the state's 41st largest city, with a population estimated at 1,768 in 2006.<sup>1</sup> Other cities and towns in Sweet Grass County include Greycliff, McLeod, and Melville.

Sweet Grass County comprises 1,846 square miles of land, of which 449 are public lands. With natural amenities such as the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness; the Absaroka, Beartooth, and Crazy Mountain Ranges; the Yellowstone and Boulder Rivers, and seven creeks providing ample fishing, hiking, and other outdoor recreation opportunities, Sweet Grass County is becoming a major draw for tourism.

Agriculture is prevalent throughout the eastern and northern sections of the county, where the primary livestock are cattle and sheep. The county ranks as Montana's 6th top producer of sheep and lambs, and 24th in cattle. Some crops are also raised, particularly those which require little moisture, such as hay, wheat, barley, and oats.<sup>2</sup>

Mining is one of Sweet Grass County's largest and fastest-growing industries. The Stillwater Mining Company East Boulder Mine accounts for 550 direct jobs in Sweet Grass County. This large employer is the primary reason that Sweet Grass County has boasted the lowest unemployment rate in the State for five years running.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Estimates Program*

<sup>2</sup>[www.comchamontana.org/viewinfo.php?town=big\\_timber](http://www.comchamontana.org/viewinfo.php?town=big_timber)

<sup>3</sup>Matt Wolfe, *Environmental Manager, East Boulder Mine. Personal E-mail.*

## Resources for Sweet Grass County

### Chambers of Commerce

Sweet Grass Chamber of Commerce  
P. O. Box 1012  
Big Timber, MT 59011  
Phone: (406) 932-5131  
E-mail: [info@bigtimber.com](mailto:info@bigtimber.com)  
Website: [www.bigtimber.com](http://www.bigtimber.com)

### Newspaper

Big Timber Pioneer  
P. O. Box 190  
Big Timber, MT 59011  
Ph: (406) 932-5298  
E-mail: [pioreporter@yahoo.com](mailto:pioreporter@yahoo.com)

### Economic Development

Sweet Grass County Opportunities  
P. O. Box 1385  
Big Timber, MT 59011  
Ph: (406) 932-5470

MSU-Bozeman Extension Service  
P. O. Box 640  
Big Timber, MT 59011-0640  
Ph: (406) 932-5146  
Fax: (406) 932-5112  
E-mail: [acxmk@montana.edu](mailto:acxmk@montana.edu)

## Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2006 (continued)

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Motion picture, sound recording industry	1	*	*
ISPs, search portals, & data processing	1	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	7	36	\$33,559
Credit intermediation & related activity	3	24	\$35,689
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	1	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	3	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	7	13	\$24,176
Real estate	5	*	*
Rental and leasing services	2	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	14	47	\$32,099
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES	1	*	*
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	2	*	*
Administrative and support services	1	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	1	*	*
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	1	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	5	17	\$16,934
Ambulatory health care services	3	*	*
Social assistance	2	*	*
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	12	45	\$10,441
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	1	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	11	*	*
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	18	160	\$11,398
Accommodation	9	46	\$13,346
Food services and drinking places	9	114	\$10,605
OTHER SERVICES	16	35	\$14,939
Repair and maintenance	4	11	\$25,240
Personal and laundry services	2	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	7	18	\$7,285
Private households	3	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21	365	\$25,297
Local Government	9	305	\$21,588
State Government	6	21	\$41,577
Federal Government	6	39	\$45,695

The QCIEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)

## Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2006

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	204	1,674	\$37,747
TOTAL PRIVATE	183	1,309	\$41,216
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	14	60	\$22,769
Crop production	3	*	*
Animal production	10	44	\$25,010
Agriculture & forestry support	1	*	*
MINING	2	*	*
UTILITIES	1	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	38	120	\$26,228
Construction of buildings	18	*	*
Heavy and civil engineering construction	1	*	*
Specialty trade contractors	19	53	\$24,197
MANUFACTURING	12	72	\$27,955
Food manufacturing	2	*	*
Wood product manufacturing	2	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	2	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	5	38	\$34,297
Transportation equipment manufacturing	1	*	*
WHOLESALE TRADE	5	24	\$24,906
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	2	*	*
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	3	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	24	168	\$19,891
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	6	45	\$28,049
Electronics and appliance stores	1	*	*
Building material & garden supply stores	2	*	*
Food and beverage stores	2	*	*
Health and personal care stores	1	*	*
Gasoline stations	3	*	*
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	3	13	\$7,293
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	2	*	*
Miscellaneous store retailers	4	5	\$7,309
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	2	*	*
INFORMATION	4	16	\$7,780
Publishing industries, except Internet	2	*	*

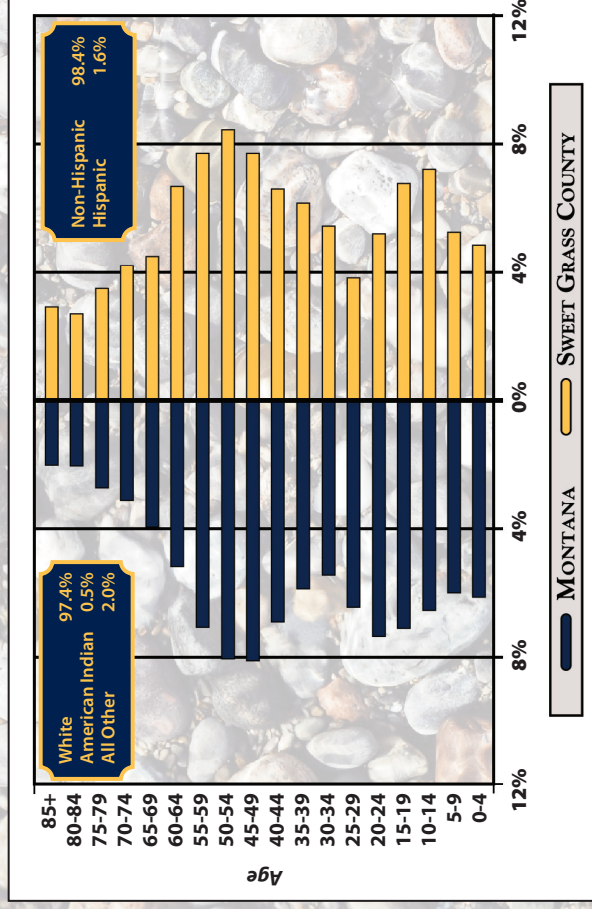
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)  
\* Data Not Disclosable

## Population for Sweet Grass County & Related Areas

Geography	% Change 2000-2006	Population Estimates								Census
		July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2002	July 1, 2001	July 1, 2000		
Sweet Grass County	4.2%	3,760	3,698	3,697	3,615	3,623	3,606	3,635	3,609	
Big Timber city	7.2%	1,768	1,737	1,744	1,702	1,704	1,679	1,668	1,650	
Balance of Sweet Grass County	1.7%	1,992	1,961	1,953	1,913	1,919	1,927	1,967	1,959	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

## Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Sweet Grass County, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 Population Estimates

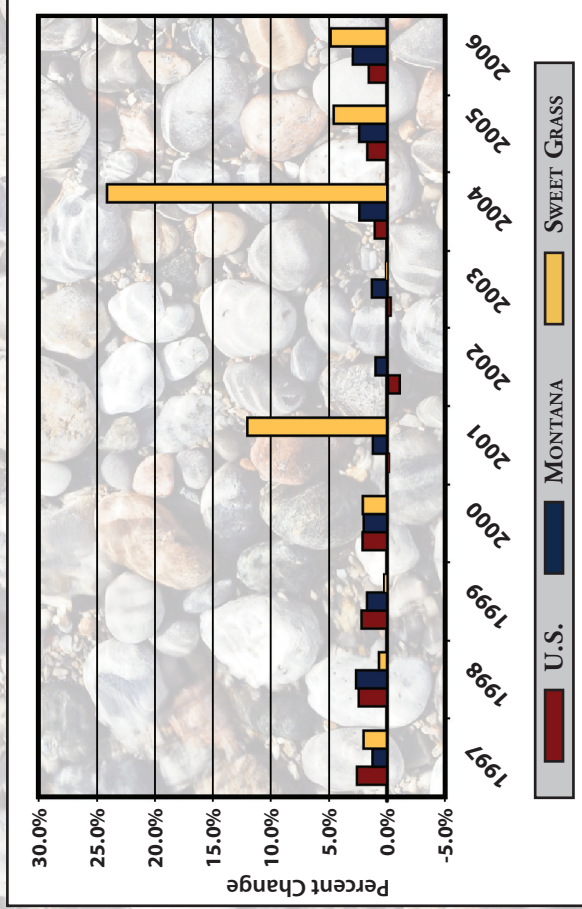
## Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Sweet Grass County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	16.6%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	37.2%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	22.8%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	4.6%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	15.3%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	1.9%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	1.0%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.5%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000



## Percent Change in Employment: 1997 to 2006 U.S., Montana, and Sweet Grass County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

## Top 10 Private Employers in Sweet Grass County (Based on 2nd Quarter 2007 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Big T IGA	4	The Grand Hotel & Restaurant	4
Big Timber Waterslide	4	Prospector Pizza Inc	3
Country Skillet Restaurant	4	Sharps Rifles-Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing Company	4
The Fort	4	Stillwater Mining	8
Frosty Freez	4	Town Pump	4

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW). This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

## Agricultural Statistics - Sweet Grass County

Farms	
Farms: (number)	357
Land in farms (acres)	867,058
Average size of farms (acres)	2,429
Farms by size: (number)	
Less than 1,000 acres	208
1,000 acres or more	149
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)	
Less than \$100,000	312
\$100,000 or more	45
Farms by type of organization: (number)	
Family, Individual, Partnership	318
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	39
Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested	
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)	
Cattle and calves	39,093
Hogs and pigs	37
Sheep and lambs	8,705
Horses and ponies	1,823
Bison	-
Chickens (layers and broilers)	561
Crops Harvested (acres)	
Corn for grain	(D)
Corn for silage or greenchop	-
Wheat for grain, All	2,847
Winter wheat for grain	(D)
Durum wheat for grain	(D)
Spring wheat for grain	-
Barley for grain	2,691
Oats for grain	1,358
Sunflower seed, All	-
Soybeans for beans	-
Hay, hayslage, grass silage	46,165

Operator Demographics	
Primary occupation: (number)	
Farming	205
Other	152
Place of residence: (number)	
On farm operated	289
Not on farm operated	68
Years on present farm: (number)	
Less than 10 years	103
10 years or more	254
Age group: (number)	
Under 55 years	182
55 years and over	175
Average age of operators: (number)	55.2

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002.  
(D) - Not Disclosable